Information for the other countries for this period is not available.

(b) Steps taken to enhance the unit value realisation by growers include :

(i) Streamlining of FCV tobacco marketing through auction system.

(Li) Regulation of production in line with demand.

(iii) Measures aimed at improving productivity & quality.

(iv) Exploring new markets.

Trade enquiries from CIS to import FCV Tobacco

40. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of trade enquiries received from C.I.S. to import FCV tobacco from India;

(b) what is the number of their representatives who visited tobacco growing areas and auction platforms; and

(c) what are the details of trade negotiations and with what effect ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) The Tobacco Board has received six trade enquiries.

(b) Six.

(c) The representatives held discussions with Indian exporters and have shown interest in the import of FCV and non FCV tobaccos from India.

Permission to 100 per cent E.O.U's to Sell *to* domestic users

41. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to issue guidelines pertaining to the sale by 100 per cent export oriented units, in foreign currency, to domestic tariff area (DTA) to domestic users;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) Provisions of para 103(b) of Export & Import Policy as well as Guidelines for sales in the domestic tariff area permit Export Oriented Units to effect such sales- against foreign exchange. Certain operational problems have, however, been reported which is being sorted out in consultation with the concerned authorities.

Signing of SAPTA at Dhaka SAARC Summit

42. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA) has been signed at the recently held Dhaka SAARC Summit; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Agreement, which will enter into force thirty days after the SAARC Secretariat notifies that all Contracting States have completed the formalities, provides for the establishment of the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement to promote and sustain mutual trade and economic cooperation among Contracting States through exchanges of concessions. In accordance with the agreement, Contracting States have now to take the next step of negotiating tariff preferences on a product-by-product basis.

Export of plantation crops

43. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that production of major plantation crops have gone up considerably over the past three decades;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the domestic consumption has almost left stagnant exportable surplus in spite of the increased production;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take any policy measures to help boost output through higher productivity and increased exportable surplus to increase the share of plantation crops in the overall export earnings of the country; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) No Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Every effort is being made to' help boost output through higher productivity and increased exportable surplus to increase the share of plantation crops in the overall export earnings of the country, in respect of coffee and tea. However, so far as Rubber is concerned, every effort is being made to achieve self sufficiency in Natural Rubber production; the question of export surplus, therefore does not arise at this stage in case of rubber.

Value addition norm for electronic sector

44. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have prescribed the value addition norm for the electronic sector;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether this move would boost exports of electronic products; and

(d) if so, what is the expected growth in exports ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) . (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The details of Standard input-out put and value addition norms for Electro nic items as notified *vide* Public Notice No. 121 dated 31-3-93 are contained in the Handbook of Procedures Vol. II, (incor porating amendments upto 31st March, 1993).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As per Department of Electronic exports for electronic sector are expected to grow at over 40% p.a. during the Eighth Plan period.

Export of granite to Japan

45. SHRI P. UPENDRA :

DR. SANJAYA SINH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Japanese delegation has apprehended setback to granite exports from India because of the frequent changes in Government's policies and unstable supplies; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to safe-guard the granite industry and promote its export ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Official Japanese delegations which visited India in September/October '92 and March '93, did not raise any issue regarding setback to granite exports from India to Japan because of frequent changes in Government's policies and the resultant unstable supplies. Japanese buyers, however, did express such an apprehension regarding future supplies of granite from India particularly in view of the restrictive mining policy being pursued by State Governments, particularly in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The matter has been taken up with the Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka to urge them to reconsider their mining lease policies so as to ensure uninterrupted supplies of granite blocks for export production of granite and granite products.